

somewhat straggling habit, not from growing in wooded ground, but probably from being the inhabitant of the less genial climate to which the species is extended. It appears not to differ from *Lathyrus venosus* of American botanists. *Hab.* Sands on the shore at Barra Firth, Unst, Shetland, where Dr. Edmonstone had observed it for several years.

Ervum tetraspermum and *Allium arenarium*.—*Hab.* Néar Kirkcudbright.

Cladium Mariscus.—*Hab.* Ravenston Loch, Whithorn.

Lamium intermedium.—*Hab.* Shetland.

Mr. Campbell read a communication from Col. P. J. Brown of Eichenbühl near Thun, containing a sketch of the botany of the neighbourhood of the lake of Thun, Switzerland, chiefly in reference to the geographical distribution and altitude of the species enumerated. The lake of Thun having an elevation of about 1900 feet above the sea, and the surrounding country being much intersected by hills or long ridges, the vegetation assumes a subalpine character on the pastures about 1800 feet above the lake, comprising *Trollius europæus*, *Hieracium aureum*, *Tussilago alpina*, &c. The following is given as an approximation to the species usually met with at different altitudes on the surrounding mountains. Between 2000 and 3000 feet, *Arenaria verna* and *ciliata*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Cotoneaster vulgaris*, *Hieracium villosum*, &c. Between 3000 and 4000 feet, *Silene acaulis*, *Cerastium alpinum*, *Phaca astragalina*, *Oxytropis uralensis*, *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, *Hieracium aurantiacum*, *Arbutus alpina*, *Ajuga alpina*, *Orchis pallens*, *Carex atrata*, &c. Above 4000 feet, *Gnaphalium alpinum* and *Leontopodium*, *Petrocallis pyrenaica*, *Draba tomentosa* and *stellata*, *Androsace bryoides*, &c. Col. Brown concludes his paper by stating that he hopes to be able to communicate fuller information as to the precise elevations of the different localities mentioned on some future occasion.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

April 21.—Professor Wilson in the Chair.

Dr. Royle read a communication from Colonel Sykes, respecting the vegetable and other productions of the Deccan, having reference to a similar communication at the beginning of the year, showing their immense extent in the eastern continent and adjacent peninsula, which yet remained to be made subservient to the arts and manufactures of this country. The paper was accompanied by a great variety of specimens and an extensive herbarium. These he divided into the gummy, the astringent, the fibrous, the oil-producing, and the saponaceous and dyeing, being classified according to their uses in the arts. The caoutchouc, belonging to the first class, was be-

coming daily of greater importance ; its production was almost illimitable, and there had been a preparing manufactory lately established at Calcutta. The plants yielding astringent productions were also very numerous, and some importance must be attached to this class, as the supply of European barks must, at no distant day, diminish to such a degree as to call the attention of those interested to the subject. The oil-producing plants were very numerous, and India had been looked to as a country from which we may justly calculate upon for supplies. The sapoline principle was developed in many of the specimens, similar to that of the soap-plant of the West Indies ; it was now beginning to be usefully applied in washing silk. Several flaxes and silks were also on the table ; but before a proper account can be given as to their merits, they will require to be prepared. Dr. Caüter read a paper on a zoological collection, consisting principally of molluscæ and zoophytes, which he exhibited, and were collected by him on the coasts of Sunberdunds. The phosphorescent changes of colour in the ocean caused by these animals he described as rivalling in beauty those of the cameleon.

LINNÆAN SOCIETY.

May 24.—This day, the anniversary of the birth-day of Linnæus, and that appointed in the charter for the election of Council and Officers, the Right Rev. the Bishop of Norwich, President of the Society, opened the business of the meeting, and in stating the number of Fellows whom the Society had lost during the past year, gave the following notices of some of them.

James Agar, Esq., died at the advanced age of 81. He was the last surviving member of a society established in London for the cultivation of natural history, which preceded the foundation of the Linnæan Society, and which reckoned among its members John Hunter, Hudson, and Curtis. Mr. Agar became a Fellow of this Society in 1826, and in his capacity of trustee transferred to it the books and other property which had belonged to the Natural History Society.

William Bentham, Esq.

Thomas Castle, M.D.—This gentleman was the author of some elementary works on Botany and Anatomy.

The Rev. John Horatio Dickenson.

Sir William Elford, Bart., F.R.S.—Sir William Elford was an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy, and was up to a late period of life, which was prolonged beyond 80, in the habit of adding to the exhibitions at Somerset House some of his own paintings, which were regarded by competent judges as evincing great merit.